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of help. Nature has been pitiless and man has gone under, the struggle for life has been too great and environment has conquered soul.

ASPECTS OF THE COAST OF NORTHEAST GREENLAND.

On December 7 last Lieut. A. Trolle read a paper before the Royal Geographical Society on the Mylius-Erichsen Expedition to the Northeast coast of Greenland, giving a summary account of the work of the party whose purpose was to supply what was still lacking in our knowledge of the outlines of Greenland. The whole of the Northeast coast from 77° N. to the Independence Bay of Peary was practically unexplored, though the Duke of Orleans on the *Belgica,* in 1905, had gone as far north as 78° 30′ N., and from his ship had seen a part of the outer islands.

Lieut. Trolle referred only in general terms to the results of the scientific work, which are to be published later. The larger geographical results have already been noted in the BULLETIN (Sept., 1908, pp. 553-4; Jan., 1909, pp. 23-5). The speaker, however, gave interesting details of the new coast regions discovered, and his description is paraphrased here from his printed paper (*Geog. Jour.,* Jan., 1909, pp. 40-61).

The land of King Frederick VIII (Map, BULL., Jan., 1909) is a beautiful mountainous country, in many places very much like Norway—the same picturesque valleys, the same deep fiords, with steep mountains, as high as 2,000 feet on both sides, which inspired the two painters of the expedition, Fries and Berthelsen; numerous islets and rock masses intersected with Sounds. Everywhere there were traces of glaciers from the Ice Period, but still earlier the country must have had a milder climate. The geologist, Jarner, found animal and plant fossils from this period in the sandstone of the Malemuk Mountain, Koldewey Island, and Hochstetter Foreland, and brought a fine collection home.

The country, bare of ice cap, is not very wide. At 77° lat. the head of the interior fiords may be reached about 40 to 60 miles from the coast, and here generally a glacier is seen coming down from the inland ice. Further north, at Jökel Bay, however, the inland ice comes down to the sea, and the coast-line here consists of two ranges of islets. At the Malemuk Mountain there is some more free land, but it is narrower, and becomes lower and lower, until it finally disappears, and the inland ice extends straight into the sea. Denmark fiord is a big, mountainous indentation, 80 miles deep. Peary Land (so-called by Erichsen, north of Greenland) is not covered with inland ice; its southern coast is very low, and in the interior there are mountains to a height of 2,000 feet. All this coast-line up to Cape Bridgman and most of the edge of the inland ice was mapped by the cartographic staff, under Captain Koch, by theodolite measurements, in a very exact manner. The country in the neighbourhood of Denmark Harbour (where the vessel of the expedition wintered) was mapped topographically, and the triangulation there was connected with the German triangulation of 1870.

The most interesting geographical feature of the whole coast is the large peninsula extending eastward to 12° W. Long., so that the outlet between Greenland and Spitzbergen, of the great Polar Basin, thus becomes rather narrow. In this connection the speaker mentioned that Dr. Nansen, from his hydrographical observations in the Polar Sea, conjectured the existence of a sub-oceanic ridge between Greenland and Spitzbergen; and as the northeast coast of Greenland along the peninsular shores is low and flat, the probability is that such a ridge really exists.

The edge of the inland ice is in some places quite steep, in other places one might mount the inland ice without knowing it. The glaciers are few and not very productive; still the fiords are sometimes quite filled with icebergs stranded on barriers at their mouths.

In the interior, about 40 miles from the edge of the inland ice, the explorers found and mapped some nunalands (also called nunataks, land projecting above the ice cap) quite surrounded by the inland ice. On these highlands above the ice, the explorers saw flowers and tracks of foxes; also, in some places, coal. During the winter the ice-free land was covered with snow, with only here and there some bare wind-swept spots. In the spring this snow partly evaporated, even at a temperature of 20° Fahr. Then the water began to melt in the ravines, and, running under the glaciers, it formed the most fantastic ice-grottoes, where the light was dissolved into the prismatic colours by the crystal icicles.

Of the larger animals, the party found bears, musk-oxen, wolves and foxes on land, and walruses and seals at sea. Bears are rather plentiful; ninety were shot, but musk-oxen and wolves were scarce. The five wolves secured were very thin, and looked as if they had had nothing to eat for a long time. Snow-hares, which were found in great numbers, were very tame in April and May, and the men could then get quite close to them. In the sea, the ponds and the glacial streams, animal life was not abundant. Some polar cod and inferior fish were usually the results of net-fishing. In one of the lakes, however, salmon was plentiful.

The expedition spent two years in Greenland, and the weather in one year differed much from that of the other. The winter of 1906-7 was cold and calm, the winter of 1907-8 milder and more windy. The ice in the first winter was 6 feet thick and broke up very late; in the second, it was only 4 feet thick. In the middle of February the sun returned, and May and June were a period of fogs and faint sea breezes. Otherwise, the wind was constantly from the northwest, due to the high air pressure over the inland ice. The climate was very healthful, and there were no diseases among the men. The only time the physician, Dr. Lindhard, acted in his professional capacity was once when poisoning resulted from eating a bear's liver.

No living Eskimo were found, but everywhere along the coast up to Denmark Fiord their tent stones, meat caches, and in some places even winter dwellings, were discovered. From their kayaks and oomiaks they had hunted the sea animals now found there, and also whales and reindeer, which the explorers did not find. The ethnologist, Thostrup, made a very interesting collection of their various tools, etc.

Lieut. Trolle said, with regard to the motor car in polar work, that he believed a stronger car than they took north would do good service where the surface is hard as on the inland ice. On the snow the motor car is too heavy and sinks in too deeply.

DR. STEIN'S TWO YEARS OF EXPLORATION.

Dr. M. A. Stein, Inspector-General of Education and Archæological Surveyor in the Northwest Frontier Province of India and Baluchistan, has completed his second series of explorations in Central Asia, which he undertook in 1906. The work has added largely to the brilliant archæological and geographical results which he attained in Eastern Turkestan in 1900-1. It will be remembered that, through this earlier work, Dr. Stein revealed the full extent to which Indian influence had established itself in Eastern Turkestan from a very early period, not merely through the spread of the Buddhist religion, but also in respect of languages, material culture and art. His investigations demonstrated, further, that the influence